

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #71B-2-4 Building Date: 1898
Building Name: Joffe Store
Location: 8519 Chestnut Street, Bowie, Maryland

Private/Store/Occupied/Excellent/Accessible

Description

The Joffe Store is a large two-part two-and-one-half-story building which faces west onto Chestnut Avenue, one of the original streets of the 1870 railroad town of Huntington. It is a frame building, with a very wide gambrel roof, and part of its principal facade, the wide west gable end, is recessed to form an unusual and variegated two-part store front. The main west facade is six bays wide, divided in the center into two functional buildings. The north half of this principal west facade consists of a two-story porch the front of which is flush with the south half of this west facade. Both the first-story porch and the balcony above are supported by tall slim Tuscan columns, and each story has a railing of turned balusters. The three southerly bays of the west facade form a separate unit, and are flush with the front of the northerly porch. On each side of the central door is a large rectangular projecting shop window.

Significance

The Joffe Store is a very large two-part building, constructed for combined commercial and residential use. It is unusual for its large size and double function, and is a noticeable landmark in the town of Bowie. This railroad village was platted in 1870 as Huntington at the junction of the Popes Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line into Washington. Stores were built close to the railroad, but were destroyed by a disastrous fire in 1895. The subject building was built by Simon Joffe in 1898. It was designed to fulfill a double function: the northerly half served as the Joffe family home, while the southerly half was set up as a general store. Simon Joffe operated the store until his death in 1917; his sons continued to operate the store until the Second World War. Today the rooms of the northerly section of the building have been converted into individual boutiques, and the southerly section houses an antique furniture store. It is a handsome and noticeable landmark in this railroad community.

Acreage: 10,000 square feet

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Joffe Store

and/or common Fabian House/Bet's Antiques

2. Location

street & number 8519 Chestnut Avenue ☐ not for publicationcity, town Bowe ☐ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Md. county Prince George's

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Francis & Edith Mae Fladung

street & number 8515 Chestnut Avenue telephone no.:

city, town Bowie state and zip code Md. 20715

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince George's County Courthouse liber 4507

street & number Main Street folio 206

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Prince George's County Inventory of Historic Sites

te 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

city, town Upper Marlboro state Md.

7. Description

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-4

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Joffe Store is a large two-part two-and-one-half-story building which faces west onto Chestnut Avenue, one of the original streets of the 1870 railroad town of Huntington. It is a frame building, with a very wide gambrel roof, and part of its principal facade, the wide west gable end, is recessed to form an unusual and variegated two-part store front.

The main west facade is six bays wide, divided in the center into two functional buildings. The north half is set back on first and second stories beneath a third or loft level which is continuous across the entire west facade. First and second stories are covered with German siding painted beige; the third level is sided with rectangular shingles. There are three round-arched windows enclosed in the third level of the west gable end; they are 2/2 double hung sash, and the central window under the ridge peak is taller than the two which flank it.

The north half of this principal west facade consists of a two-story porch the front of which is flush with the south half of this west facade. Both the first-story porch and the balcony above are supported by tall slim Tuscan columns, and each story has a railing of turned balusters. The first story of the porch rests on brick piers, infilled with lattice; this first-story porch turns and wraps around one bay of the long north facade.

Sheltered by the porch are the three northerly bays of the main west facade. Entrance is in the third bay. Windows are 1/1 double hung sash, have plain board surrounds with projecting upper bead, and brown louvered shutters.

The interior of the north half of the building consists of side stair-hall on the south, and double parlor on the north. The staircase has a square panelled newel surmounted by an urn-shaped cap, and turned balusters. Door and window surrounds are of plain board with bulls-eye corner blocks. The first-story parlors and the smaller second-story rooms are now used as individual antique/craft boutiques.

The three southerly bays of the west facade form a separate unit, and are flush with the front of the northerly porch. Entrance into this southerly unit is through the central of its three bays, through a panelled double door with three-light transom and full-length louvered shutters. Windows on the second story are 2/2 double hung sash with brown louvered shutters. On each side of the central door is a large rectangular projecting shop window; each is composed of a four-pane single sash window with two pane transom and wainscoting below. These display windows are sheltered by a one-story hip-roof porch across the entire three-bay southerly unit of the building; the porch is supported by turned posts, and rests on brick piers.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G.#71B-2-4

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect
1898/99	
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D	
and/or	
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G	
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input type="checkbox"/> local	

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Joffe Store is a very large two-part building, constructed for combined commercial and residential use. It is unusual for its large size and double function, and is a noticeable landmark in the town of Bowie.

The store stands on three lots fronting on Chestnut Avenue, the main street of the railroad town of Huntington. This railroad village was platted in 1870 by developer Ben M. Plumb at the junction of the Popes Creek line of the Baltimore and Potomac Railroad and the branch line into Washington. Plumb platted a town of approximately one square mile, with numbered streets running east and west, and tree-named streets running north and south, forming a grid over the diagonal railroad line. Chestnut Avenue was the principal street, running parallel to, and east of, the Popes Creek tracks.¹ Stores were built close to the railroad, the early ones operated by Straining, Ridgeway, Luers, Watts, Porter and Johnston. In April 1895 a fire broke out in John Seitz' hotel which fronted on the Popes Creek line; it quickly spread to consume the Watts' grocery on one side and the Luers' store and post office on the other, destroying all three buildings.²

Rebuilding began soon after the fire, and it was at approximately this time that Simon Joffe settled in Bowie. Joffe had immigrated from Russia in 1888, and by the late 1890's was buying property in Bowie. In 1898 he constructed the subject building. It was designed to fulfill a double function: the northerly half served as the Joffe family home, while the southerly half was set up as a general store. Simon Joffe operated the store until his death in 1917; it carried a variety of merchandise from coffee, shoes and underclothing, to washtubs and roofing material.³ The property was transferred to Joffe's sons who continued to operate the store until the Second World War; it was finally sold out of the Joffe family in 1975.⁴

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PS-2746

#7 (Continued)

Interior consists of one large space on the first story; its walls are covered with narrow vertical wainscot panelling. A flight of stairs with turned newel leads (from east to west along the south wall) to a similar second-story space. Both are now converted to antique shop use.

Throughout this two-part building, the cornice is boxed with crown molding. The four-plane roof is covered with standing seam metal, and has decorative iron snow-stops along the eaves. The building rests on a brick and stone foundation. The northerly unit of the building consists of several small antique and craft boutiques on two levels; the southerly unit consists of one large room on each of two levels, devoted to antique shop space. There is a side entrance in the center bay of the irregular three-bay south facade. The rear east gable end is partially covered by a one-story shed addition on the south, and a one-story shed-roof porch with turned posts and plain balustrade on the north.

#8 (Continued)

Today the rooms of the northerly section of the building have been converted into individual antique and craft boutiques, and the southerly section houses a larger antique furniture store. The building has been restored to very good condition. It is an important functional building in the developing antique industry of "Old Bowie", and is probably unique in Prince George's County. It is a handsome and noticeable landmark in this railroad community.

Notes

- 1 Prospectus of Huntington, 1870.
- 2 Prince George's Enquirer, 19 April 1895, April 1895; Census for Prince George's County, 1880, 1900; Directories of Prince George's County; G.M. Hopkins, Atlas of Prince George's County, 1878.
- 3 Census of Prince George's County, 1900, 1910; Prince George's County Estate File #2854 (1917); Prince George's County Deed, J.B. #6:143.
- 4 Prince George's County Deeds #499:485, 481; #776:16; #4507:206.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME					
COMMON: Joffe Store Bldg. #2					
AND/OR HISTORIC: Old Bowie					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER: 8519 Chestnut Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: Bowie					
STATE: Maryland			COUNTY: Prince George's		
3. CLASSIFICATION					
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment		<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum		<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____					
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME: Mary Joffe					
STREET AND NUMBER: 121 Granville Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis			STATE: Maryland		
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Prince George's County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER: _____					
CITY OR TOWN: Upper Marlboro			STATE: Maryland		
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): _____					
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY: None					
DATE OF SURVEY: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____					
STREET AND NUMBER: _____					
CITY OR TOWN: _____			STATE: _____		

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent☒ Good☐ Fair☐ Deteriorated☐ Ruins☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☒ Altered☐ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The building is a wide, gambrel roofed structure with a recessed porch across the north half of the main (west) facade and a projecting porch across the south half. The shingled pediment has three round-arched windows. Along the sides, the siding is tongue-and-groove.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

lasaphy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☐ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	
STATE:		COUNTY:	

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christopher Owens, Park Historian	
ORGANIZATION M-NCPPC	DATE 2/16/73
STREET AND NUMBER: 8787 Georgia Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN: Silver Spring	STATE Maryland

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

R-R

WILLIAM T
HUBBERT
5373 / 083
4 80A. P.213

R-R

R-55

LAUREL RD
BOWIE RD

71B-2-1

71B-2-6

71B-2-7

71B-2-5

71B-2-2

R-55

71B-2-3

71B-2-4

71B-13

R-R

I-1

NEW JERSEY
STEEL CORP.
5545/680

NANCY BROWN
4182/813

R-R

71B-12

71B-11

PG: 71B-2-4



PG#71B-2-4

Joffe Store
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
West elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



NAME JOFFE STORE #2 (OLD BOWIE) PG #71B-2

LOCATION 8519 CHESNUT ST. BOWIE, MD

FACADE W

PHOTO TAKEN 2/15/73 MDWYER



PG#71B-2-4

Joffe Store
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
Southeast 3/4 elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



PG#71B-2-4

Joffe Store
Prince George's County, MD
Susan G. Pearl
March 1986
East elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD